

A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS POTAMOCORIS FROM HONDURAS

(HEMIPTERA, NAUCORIDAE)

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The new species from Honduras described here constitutes the third member of the very small subfamily Potamocorinae. The group was first defined as a subfamily by Dr. Usinger in 1941, based on *Potamocoris parvus* Hungerford from Paraguay. A second new genus and species, *Coleopterocoris kleerekoperi* was added to the subfamily by Hungerford in 1942, based on 4 Brazilian specimens. With such a paucity of material, it is idle at the moment to speculate on the value of the group in furnishing information bearing on the origin and geographies of these peculiar little naucorids, but the presence of the genus *Potamocoris* both north and south of the critical Panamanian Isthmus gives some indication of the possibility of obtaining data of interest along these lines from this group when enough material has accumulated to warrant some attempt at analysis.

I am pleased to dedicate the species to its collector, Mr. E. C. Becker, and would also like to express my appreciation to Dr. Milton W. Sanderson of the Illinois Natural History Survey for locating and sending me the specimen for study.

Potamocoris beckeri, new species

*General*¹: a minute, rather elongate naucorid of dull brownish aspect; size 2.92 mm. long, 1.15 mm. wide; dorsum unicolorous brown, venter yellowish brown, lighter anteriorly and medially.

Head: dorsally unicolorous testaceous, faintly shiny, impunctate with sparse, coarse, conspicuous white hairs, most prominent along anterior and medial margins of eyes, thinner on disc of head, absent from portion posterior to eyes; front strongly protuberant and narrowly rounded before eyes. Eyes reddish, coarsely faceted, external margin nearly flat, only slightly rounded, the anterior, medial and posterior margins forming a continuous, smooth semicircle, the posterior union with the outer edge broadly rounded, the anterior union acute-angulate; outer edge of eye but little protuberant from side outline of head. Head distinctly but broadly and weakly set into anterior pronotal margin. Labrum light yellow; beak medially slender, darkening in color toward tip, and extending to distal ends of forecoxae. Ratio of antennal segments 1-4 respectively 1.75::3.00::3.00::5.00. Head 0.38 mm. long, 0.69 mm. wide; ratios are—

¹The following description was made from a specimen in alcohol.

- 1) total length to width (including eyes), 19::29 (66%);
- 2) anterior distance between eyes to length of outer eye margin, 15::9 (60%);
- 3) anterior distance between eyes to greatest length of head anterior to this line, 15::5 (33%).

Pronotum: unicolorous testaceous, faintly shiny, with some coarse, sparse and shallow pitting, especially posteriorly. Sparse, coarse, white pilosity most evident laterally. Lateral edge nearly straight, curving slightly anteriorly, smooth and non-serrate. Antero-lateral angles sharp, extending to outer angle of eyes, postero-lateral angles broad and blunt. Lateral margin narrowly explanate. Venter testaceous, darkened laterally, pro- and mesosterna weakly keeled, the metasternal keel so faint as to be almost undiscernible, all sterna medio-posteriorly produced into a definite, blunt spine. Pronotum 0.38 mm. long, 1.15 mm. wide; ratios are—

- 1) width between anterior angles to width between posterior angles, 29::48 (60%);
- 2) median length to greatest width, 15::48 (31%);
- 3) distance between anterior and posterior angles to median pronotal length, 23::15 (65%).

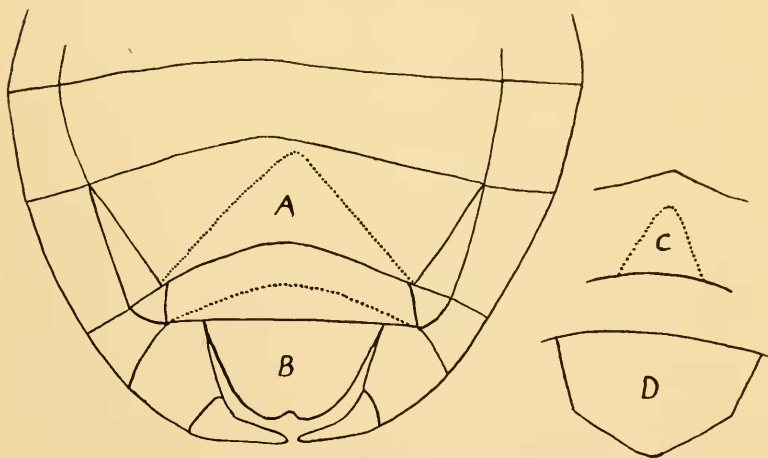
Scutellum: brownish, smoothly and shallowly curved downward in all directions from its center point; surface very minutely, sparsely and weakly impunctate; small inconspicuous scale-like hairs sparsely present; two bright, thin crescentic lines anteriorly on each side of the median line, extending anteriorly beneath margin of pronotum; ratio of three sides, anterior and two laterals, is 38::27::26.

Hemelytra: in alcohol, quite thin and transparent, but the typical *Potamocoris* facies is present. Anteriorly coriaceous, the leathery area extending caudad along lateral edge of wing nearly to tip, confining the membranous portions between these two borders on either side. Clavus, corium and embolium coarsely but comparatively strongly punctate in contrast to smooth membranes; embolium long, narrow, widening posteriorly, the caudal bordering fracture straight and nearly at right angles with both the outer hemelytral edge and the inner defining line; emboliar length to greatest width, 36::8 (22%); some conspicuous coarse, white hairs anteriorly; hemelytra with fine, white decumbent hairs over entire surface except membranes; hemelytra extending a short distance beyond end of abdomen.

Venter: the prothoracic venter has been discussed above. Remainder of venter reddish-brown, unicolorous except for two conspicuous light-yellow areas on abdominal segments IV and V; the area on IV is by far the largest, and occupies nearly the entire median and posterior areas of segment IV, having the shape of an inverted "V", the point of the "V" extending cephalad (see illustration); the area on V is considerably smaller, being confined largely to the posterior border of segment V, which latter is considerably narrower than segment IV. Similar coriaceous areas are present in small areas of the posterior

margins of abdominal segments III and II, but much less conspicuously. Median posterior border of abdominal segment II bearing a small, blunt spine between hind legs. Connexival edges non-spinose, smooth, non-serrate, with marginal yellow pilosity which increases markedly posteriorly. Subgenital plate distinctly notched at apex (see illustration).

Legs: (described as if oriented at right angles to the long axis of the body) Fore legs—coxae elongate-globular, trochanter smaller but distinct, bearing the large incrassate femora; tibiae slim, narrow, two-thirds length of femora, tipped with shorter, slender trasi each bearing two thin, terminal weakly curved claws; ratio of femur-tibia-tarsus (excluding claws), 21:13:6; color very light yellow, nearly whitish; combined tibia-tarsus, (excluding claws), when closed, overlapping adjacent (proximal) end of femur. Mid legs—elongated-globular, trochanter small but distinct, femora narrow, with sparse, short, blunt, reddish-yellow spines, with two long and conspicuous hairs posteriorly near junction with trochanters; a secondary line of sparse spine-like pubescence along posterior edge just anterior to the edge; sparse and weak hairs along anterior border; tibia elongate and narrower than femur, and heavily spined with large and small reddish-yellow bristles which form a terminal ring as well as occur in three strong groups along anterior (outer) border and sparser along posterior (inner) margin; tarsi two-segmented, with posterior (inner) pilosity and some weak spinules, terminating in two slender, weakly curved claws; ratio of



Text figure 1. A, coriaceous area on ventral surface of abdominal segment IV of *Potamocoris beckeri*, female holotype; B, subgenital plate of *P. beckeri*, holotype; C, coriaceous area on ventral surface of abdominal segment IV of *Potamocoris parvus* (re-drawn from Hungerford 1941); D, subgenital plate of *P. parvus* (re-drawn from Hungerford 1941).

femur-tibia-tarsus (excluding claws), 22:18:15; color light yellow, darkening along edges. Hind legs—coxae very large, elongate-globular, much larger than mid coxae; trochanters insignificantly larger than mid trochanters; femora elongate, very sparsely spinose along margins after the pattern of the mid femora, but much reduced; tibiae comparatively very long and narrow with interspersed spination and pubescence along outer and inner margins, the pubescence posteriorly elongating into a thick fringe of swimming hairs; tarsi two-segmented, very elongate, continuing the inner fringe of swimming hairs to the tip, which bears two claws; ratio of femur-tibia-tarsus (excluding claws), 28:32:27; color yellowish-white.

Distribution: known only from the holotype.

Type locality data: Honduras (12 kilometers west of Olanchito, 21(vi)49, E. C. Becker). Taken in a light trap.

Location of type: The female holotype, the only known specimen, is in the collection of the Illinois Natural History Survey, Urbana, Illinois.

Comparative notes: The new genus and species *Potamocoris parvus* was described by Hungerford in 1941 from 21 Paraguayan specimens; *P. beckeri* is quite patently a *Potamocoris*, and an interesting addition to the genus particularly in view of its occurrence in Central America so far removed from type locality of the genus. The excellent illustrations of *P. parvus* in Dr. Hungerford's readily available 1941 paper will serve adequately for establishing the general facies of *P. beckeri*. The two species may be easily separated on the following characters:

Female subgenital plate notched at apex; coriaceous area of abdominal segment IV greatly expanded, occupying the entire posterior margin of the segment and extending cephalad in the form of a large inverted "V" nearly to the caudal edge of segment III; Honduras	<i>beckeri</i>
Female subgenital plate bluntly pointed at apex; coriaceous area of abdominal segment IV much reduced, merely forming a small inverted "V" along the median line; Paraguay	<i>parvus</i>

REFERENCES

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